

Dear friends,

We are beginning a periodic newsletter designed to be short but informative, letting you know of significant changes in the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB), updates and helpful hints on the CNDDDB PC application, *RareFind*, information on other products, and other news. Most newsletters will be shorter than this one.

Please feel free to share this email with your staff or others who didn't receive it. If you would prefer to not receive these emails, or have colleagues who would like to, just let us know by emailing [Steve Furness](#) and your name will be removed from the group address we are currently using.

August/September, 2003 NEWS from the CNDDDB:

1. New Pricing structure. Free to DFG staff as always; \$300 to subscribe/\$200 to renew for everyone else. Some negotiated pricing available for poor academics or other groups with a proven inability to afford \$300. This is a huge decrease from the former pricing of \$2500 commercial rate/\$1250 nonprofit rate.
2. The new, Windows version of *RareFind* is currently being beta tested and prepared for release. We expect it to be released by October at the latest. The Windows version should resolve many of your problems with the program including printing problems, viewing problems, non-intuitive functionality, etc.
3. Here is a tip for using *RareFind 2* (the old one): When you get your update, be sure to uninstall the old version on your computer and delete all files, leaving an empty CNDDDB folder. Delete all files from your Trash as well. Then, install the updated version. This is the only way to be certain the information is re-indexed properly. If you do not do this, there is no guarantee that you are looking at new data. The Windows version of *RareFind* will not have this issue.
4. Some of the changes we made in preparation for the release of *RareFind 3* have caused additional problems for *RareFind 2*. We changed the scientific name from all caps to just initial caps for the genus name. This has created problems when selecting by scientific name in recent versions of *RareFind 2*. Since the DOS program is expecting all caps, it stops sorting after the first letter and you must scroll down to the correct scientific name. This will not be an issue in *RareFind 3*. Just use the right hand scroll to get to the species you want for now.
5. *RareFind 3* will contain several hundred new Swainson's hawk occurrences. Additional field work on this species, combined with an increasing population, pushed the number of nesting occurrences in the CNDDDB to 999. We couldn't add any new occurrences until we increased the size of the occurrence number field, which had to happen in not only the native Oracle database, but in

RareFind as well. This has now been done. We are now up to occ 1233 occurrences and we are still entering data for 2003.

5. The CNDDDB now maps and works in a NAD 83 environment. We previously used NAD 27. So, if you are collecting GPS data for our use, it would be great if you reported it using NAD 83 UTM coordinates. If you provide shape files, providing them in NAD 83, Albers projection is also fine. We can convert data, but this saves time. Please be sure to indicate the datum you used when sending in data. Also, stay tuned for a new, IMS (internet mapping application) field survey form and mapping site.

5. The CNDDDB zoology shop has all of their unentered data (backlog) in an Access database. We can query the database by species, contributor, quad, county, etc. Botany is still entering the data for their similar database; estimated time of completion of this: May 2004. This means the backlog for zoology, and soon for botany, is at least available for CNDDDB staff to query to the quad level. This will greatly help in prioritizing species for update and in pulling lists of taxa with updates needed for regional planning areas.

6. The July, 2003 updates of the lists of Special Plants, Special Animals, T&E plants and T&E animals are now available on our website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/index.html>. There have been a number of taxonomy changes in reptiles and amphibians. Please see page 2 of the *Special Animals List* under "Taxonomic References and Sources of Additional Information" for more details.

If you have any questions about the CNDDDB or this newsletter, contact Darlene McGriff for animal questions (dmcgriff@dfg.ca.gov), Roxanne Bittman for plant questions (rbittman@dfg.ca.gov), Steve Furness for questions on subscribing, loading and using *RareFind* (sfurness@dfg.ca.gov), and Ann Mahaney (amahaney@dfg.ca.gov) for questions on the GIS portion of the CNDDDB.